(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs has informed that as per entry 54, List II in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, sales tax is a State subject. Therefore, any concession in this regard can be granted by State Governments only.

SSIs Role in Economy

1780. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the role played by the small scale industries in the economy today;

(b) how it differs from the role played in seventies and eighties;

(c) whether its role has diminished due to liberalisation of the economy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The small scale industries have been playing a significant role in the Indian economy in terms of industrial production, employment generation and exports.The role of the SSI sector has not changed since the seventies and eighties. At present, the SSI sector contributes 39% of industrial production, 34% in national exports and provided employment to over 192 lakh persons in 2001-02.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. In fact, the sector has emerged as a vibrant constituent of the economy and is well equipped to face the challenge of liberalisation. A Comprehensive Policy Package announced in August, 2000 contains several measures to further strengthen this sector both domestically and globally. The SSI sector has been assigned an important role in employment generation during the Tenth Five Year Plan. In the context of the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister for generating 50 million additional jobs in the country during this period, the SSI sector has been assigned the task of creating 4.4 million additional jobs.

Items Reserved for SSI

†1781. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the items which have been kept in reserved list for SSI sector;

(b) the items which have been removed from the reserved list;

(c) whether Government intend to remove some more commodities from the reserved list; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) 749 items are currently reserved for manufacture in the SSI sector.

(b) Since 1990-91 till date, 90 items (which include three sub-items) have been dereserved.

(c) and (d) The issue of reservation/de-reservation of items for exclusive manufacture in the SSI sector is examined on a continual basis by the Government and is based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee constituted under the Industries Development & Regulation Act, 1951. In addition, the Ministry of Small Scale Industries also consults stakeholders regarding various entries in the list.

Policy for promotion of SSIs

1782. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to formulate any policy for expansion and promotion of small scale industries in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the funds proposed to be sanctioned and likely to be released by Government to the various States during this Plan period; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Policy measures already exist for expansion and promotion of small scale industries. In addition, a Comprehensive Policy Package has been announced by Government on 30th August, 2000 to strengthen the small industries sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally. The package *inter-alia* includes easier access to credit, marketing support, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure.